

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-6 and 15-25 are pending in this application. In the Office Action dated July 25, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-6 remain allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing those claims. The Examiner rejected claims 15-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,287,434 ("*Bain*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 ("*Lobiondo*") and U.S. Patent No. 5,045,880 ("*Evanitsky*").

In response, Applicants have amended claims 15, 16, and 21 to more particularly define the invention. No new subject matter has been added. Support for the amendments to claim 15 may be found, for example, at page 154, lines 8-14. Support for the amendments to claims 16 and 21 may be found, for example, at page 162, line 9 to page 163, line 6. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

Claim 15

The Examiner rejected claim 15 as being obvious over *Bain* in view of *Lobiondo* and *Evanitsky*. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 15 is not obvious over the combination of *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, and *Evanitsky* at least because, either alone or in combination, these cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest "recovery means for recovering the status of each of the jobs being held in the plurality of queues, at the time of recovery from a failure, if any failure occurred while the jobs are being scheduled by said scheduling means, wherein the status recovered by the recovery means is the status immediately before the occurrence of the failure and wherein if the status of a job

is changed due to the failure, the status recovered is a changed status and job information associated with the job having the changed status is rewritten to reflect the changed status," as required by amended claim 15.

The Examiner asserted that *Bain* teaches the above recovery means because *Bain* discloses that "if the job is in a wait state before the failure, the job will be re-queued (in a wait state) and if a job is in a printing state before failure, the job will be immediately put back into the printing state." Office Action, page 11. Applicants submit that amended claim 15 further specifies that "if the status of a job is changed due to the failure, the status recovered is a changed status and job information associated with the job having the changed status is rewritten to reflect the changed status." In this way, amended claim 15 addresses recovery in the event of changed job status and in particular ensures that "the status of job information is rewritten after the job information has been moved, and recovery processing is carried out based on the practical queue which retains the job. Hence, it is possible to eliminate inconsistency between the status of job information and the practical queue retaining that job information." Page 154, lines 8-14. Applicants submit that the combination of *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, and *Evanitsky* does not contemplate and fail to show or suggest the above feature of amended claim 16. In particular, *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, or *Evanitsky*, does not show, teach, or suggested that "job information associated with the job having the changed status is rewritten to reflect the changed status," and thereby "eliminate[ing] inconsistency between the status of job information and the practical queue retaining that job information." Page 154, line 12-14.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that at least because the combination of Bain, Lobiondo, and Evanitsky fails to show or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 15, claim 15 is patentable over this combination under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 16-25

With regard to claim 16, the Examiner conceded that "Bain does not teach wherein the attribute information is chosen from at least one of paper size, tray number and the availability of double side printing." Office Action, page 11. However, the Examiner contended that Lobiondo, in referencing Evanitsky, teaches the above feature and that "[s]ince Bain teaches programming a print job to be store[d] in a spool and to select a printer to print the print job based on the programmed print job attribute and teaches to modify print job attributes; it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Bain to include: print job attribute[s] includes at least one of paper size, tray number and the availability of double side printing and to modify print job attribute." Office Action, page 12.

Applicants submit that Bain does not teach or suggest "modif[ying] print job attributes," as suggested by the Examiner. More specifically, Applicants submit that claim 16 explicitly defines attribute information as being printing characteristics of a particular print job that are "chosen from at least one of paper size, tray number, and the availability of double-sided printing." Bain, in its relevant sections, merely mentions a microprocessor that "reassigns the priority of a designated job or moves the job to a different queue as indicated by the user in issuing the change request via the

keyboard." Col. 8, lines 1-5. Thus, *Bain* is only concerned with modifying the order of print jobs in a queue and completely fails to consider modifying attribute information that is specific to a particular print job where the attribute information are "chosen from at least one of paper size, tray number, and the availability of double-sided printing," as required by amended claim 16. Consequently, Applicants submit that at least because *Bain* fails to show or suggest modifying attribute information of a particular print job, there can be no motivation for a person with ordinary skill in the art to modify *Bain* in view of *Lobiondo* and *Evanitsky* to obtain an "attribute modifying means for modifying the attribute information only when a print job can be changed at the time that an instruction for modifying the attribute information of the print job is received, and when the attribute information is determined to be free from errors; and wherein the attribute information is chosen from at least one of paper size, tray number, and the availability of double-sided printing," as required by amended claim 16.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that even when combined, the combination of *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, and *Evanitsky* would fail to show or suggest the above feature as required by amended claim 16. As discussed above, *Bain* fails to show or suggest modifying or otherwise interacting with attribute information of a particular print job where the attribute information is "chosen from at least one of paper size, tray number, and the availability of double-sided printing." Therefore, *Bain* also fails to consider checking such attribute information so it may be known "when the attribute information is determined to be free from errors," as required by amended claim 16. For example, according to Applicants' specification, the attribute information may be checked to see "(2a) whether or not an attribute not supported by the job scheduling device 412 is

specified; (2b) whether or not multiple values . . . are provided as an attribute value to an item where a single value . . . should be provided; and (2c) whether or not the attribute information of a job which the second and later documents possess is specified." Page 162, lines 19-25. In this way, Applicants' invention of amended claim 16 does not admit any "user attempts to provide erroneous attribute information" for modification. Page 162, lines 12-14. None of *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, or *Evanitsky* shows or suggests such a check so as to modify the attribute information "only when a print job can be changed at the time that an instruction for modifying the attribute information of the print job is received, and when the attribute information is determined to be free from errors," as required by amended claim 16.

Accordingly, at least because there is no motivation to combine *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, and *Evanitsky*, and because even when combined, the combination of *Bain*, *Lobiondo*, and *Evanitsky* would still fail to show or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 16, amended claim 16 is patentable over this combination under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claim 21 includes at least one novel feature that corresponds to those novel features discussed above in connection with claim 16, and it is, therefore, patentable for the same reasons claim 16 is patentable. Claims 17-20 and 22-25 depend from claims 16 and 21, respectively, and are, therefore, also patentable at least because of their dependence on a patentable base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art

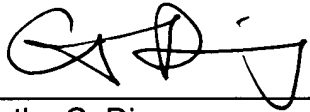
references cited against this application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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By: 
Cathy C. Ding
Reg. No. 52,820